

Our current term limits law needs fixing. It's two decades old, but our Legislature is still filled with career politicians more focused on campaigning for their next office than doing their job. Proposition 28 is a simple reform that will help make our Legislature more accountable.

#### A STRICT 12-YEAR LIMIT.

The current term limits law is based on the number of terms served. It says legislators can only complete their 14-year lifetime limit by serving three two-year terms in the Assembly and two four-year terms in the Senate.

But the courts have opened up a loophole <sup>allowing</sup> ~~that allows~~ politicians to serve up to nearly 17 years by filling partial term vacancies that don't get counted as part of their limit. Prop. 28 reduces the lifetime limit to 12 years and closes that "17-year loophole" by imposing a strict limit based on the number of years served in the Legislature, not on the number of terms.

After 12 years in the Legislature - whether in the Assembly, <sup>the</sup> Senate, or a combination of the two - a politician is prohibited from running for the Legislature. Every year counts. To make sure there are no more loopholes, current and former legislators are prohibited from using Proposition 28 to extend their lifetime limits.

## MAKE LEGISLATORS MORE ACCOUNTABLE.

The current term limits law inadvertently encourages the wrong behaviors. The only way legislators can complete their lifetime limit is to move from office to office. Once elected, they start holding fundraisers and looking for their next office. Many Assembly members fail to reach the six-year maximum before they leave to seek their next office.

Politicians looking ahead for their next office are not concentrating on representing ~~the~~ concerns of their current district. Proposition 28 gives legislators the choice of running for re-election in the same district instead of flipping offices to complete their lifetime limits. This will focus legislators ~~more~~ on serving their districts to get re-elected instead of on lining up support in Sacramento to run elsewhere.

## FOCUS LEGISLATORS ON DOING THEIR JOB.

Legislators who are jumping from office to office ~~are not~~ <sup>aren't</sup> focused on learning their job. This leaves legislators ill-prepared to stand up to more experienced special interest lobbyists and take on the big issues and challenges facing our state. Almost 40% of Assembly members are new to their jobs after each election. By removing the incentive to change office just to complete their lifetime limits,

Proposition 28 means legislators will be more likely to learn their job and develop the expertise to get things done.

HELP FIX OUR TERM LIMITS LAW. THE STATUS QUO ISN'T WORKING.

Proposition 28 won't solve all the problems in Sacramento. But it is a step forward that brings positive change that helps make the Legislature more effective and accountable.

READ PROP 28 FOR YOURSELF. Prop 28 does what it says. It's a strict 12-year limit that closes the 17-year loophole and improves accountability. Prop 28 is a step in the right direction. Yes on 28.

Jennifer A. Waggoner, President  
League of Women Voters of California

Kathay Feng, Executive Director  
California Common Cause

Hank Lacayo, President  
Congress of California Seniors